

PLANNING BOARD Waste Water Study Committee Meeting
January 7, 2008
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES
Tape Recorded

- **4:13 p.m. Call to Order and Introductions. Members Present:** Chair Kerry White, Don Seifert, Gail Richardson, Marianne Amsden and C.B. Dormire. **Members Absent:** Randy Carpenter. **Staff Present:** Sean O'Callaghan and Recording Secretary Linsey Lindgren.
- Discussion of information provided over time to the PB-WWC that has been useful and would be helpful to new member Marianne.
- Gail questions: Should we have an Engineer sit in on PB-WWC meetings and/or be on staff? Kerry responded by saying that we would need to check the law on whether a certified Sanitarian or/and an Engineer can be on staff. Don asked what other jurisdictions have engineers on staff and why?
- Gail wants to discuss what the Commission would like the Committee to focus on based off of what was said at the Planning Board Retreat on December 19, 2007. Kerry explained that sometime ago he had handed out a questionnaire to the Commissioners on what direction they would like the PB-WWC to take. He said that each Commissioner had totally different ideas than the next on what direction the Committee should take. The Board of Health Committee and the PB-WWC seem to be the two groups working on wastewater. Don asked what the chances were that these two groups are going to have duplicate information? The Planning Staff and the Environmental Health Staff are communicating on a regular basis, but maybe having joint meeting of the two committees to make sure information does not overlap and also to give each other direction.
- Gail expressed her concern about not being an engineer and being over come by the lack of expertise in this issue. She further explained that she thinks the PB-WWC should make broad strokes to say, "this is what we want to happen to preserve out water" Kerry responded that he thinks the PB-WWC should gather the information necessary to explain the process.
- Kerry asked for more information on who and what caused the River Rock sewer problem recently. He also asked who was taking the lead on fixing the situation. The River Rock issue is something that this Committee needs to think about when considering density like a one-acre minimum lot size.
- Sean gave a handout dated January 7, 2008 DRAFT that is a compiled list of questions asked during previous PB-WWC meetings. Sean spoke with a Lewis and Clark County Permitting Specialist. This handout lead to a discussion on raising nitrate levels causes problems for this County and see how their issue might affect us. Also we want to look at what other Counties are doing with their wastewater such as Lewis and Clark and Flathead so that we do not re-invent the wheel, but more learn what other Counties have done and see what would work best for Gallatin County.

- Discussion on the handout titled Septic System Impact on Surface Waters: A review for the Inland Northwest. Higher treatment levels and lower density.
- Marianne wants to base our goals on scientific information. Kerry wants to research what others did and find more scientific evidence. Marianne wants to know what our end goal is for the Committee. C.B. explained that we are now just trying to find out what the County is doing now to regulate wastewater and then think sensibly on how to move forward from the 1973 Legislature decision. Kerry would like the Committee to end up with a subdivision regulation that is predictable based off scientific facts need to find answers on how to build a defensible regulation. Sean thinks it would be good to formulate a good list of legal questions to give to the County Attorney.
- Gail brought up that when an old septic systems needs to be replaced, do they need to be up to this new standard? Kerry said yes, they would have to meet the new standard.
- Administrative discussion on how to title handouts so that everyone knows where it is coming from and is easy to read. Kerry would like to add in an approval of meeting minutes to the agendas.
- Discussion on Gallatin City-County Health Department EHS Response to CBD's Questions. Gail expressed that the Environmental Health procedure is so long and confusing.
- Handout titled Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Assessment: Permitting and Compliance Division Water Protection Bureau and also a handout titled Water Quality Permitting referencing question 10 from Sean's previous hand out dated January 7, 2006 DRAFT of compiled meeting questions.
- Sean gave two handouts from Randy Carpenter one was titled Decentralized Wastewater Treatment and the other was titled Onsite Water Treatment, which was a link to an online journal on Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Solutions. Kerry mentioned that on the handout that development depends on the soils for wastewater and he conquered that this Committee needs to put some thought on soil types for locations of future wastewater treatment facility sites.
- Don asked if at any of the Planning Convention meetings that Sean attends address these alternative systems and such issues? We should keep looking around the Country and outside the United States for system tried that have tried and either has success or failure.

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- Gail thinks we could do more with recycled water in the County. Don reminded everyone "right now we are drinking 40 year old sewer water". Gail asked what the differences were between closed and open basins from confined and unconfined aquifers.
- Kerry and Gail discussed what authorities could help fund new treatment facilities such as Federal funding, City, County or if it can only be private. Kerry asked why do tax dollars have to bail out systems that fail? What about bonding? Gail asked about insurance coverage for failures?
- Other Business: Discussion on meeting times. Thursdays the same week as Planning Board from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Linsey asked whether or not we could use the FTR? Further discussion on why we are even taking minutes. Don asked what the legal requirements are. Sean asked if we could next time use the FTR just to see if that does in fact work better? Kerry said yes, that is fine. Next meeting will be January 24, 2008.
- 6:15 p.m. Adjourned.